

Today's News - Monday, March 9, 2009

- ArcSpace brings us two dental clinics in Berlin by Graft (might be worth getting a toothache just to visit - or give you one).
- A call for Israel to tackle urban blight instead of using "green city" as a marketing ploy (and an excellent analysis of why it's so difficult).
- A long stroll through Beijing's Olympic Forest Park, the city's "real Bird's Nest" and "evidence of social transformation."
- Is San Francisco's Transbay Terminal design already obsolete?
- Stephens on the crusade to put free parking in reverse, and the "Shoup-ist" movement to bring about change in a "land use that is as ubiquitous as it is vapid." - Perhaps the compressed air AIRPod is one answer (we couldn't resist - it's just too cute!).
- Boston picks the winning design for a green mega-project that could mend a tear in the city's urban fabric (+ pix of designs that didn't win).
- A new lease on life for decommissioned oil rigs: luxury eco-resorts (and pix to prove it).
- de Portzamparc tapped for Brussels's new Euroquarter (space for people included - what a concept!).
- Campbell on a new Boston library branch that turns the page in library design: "a building in which architecture is never unaware of human needs."
- Glancey on the "architecture of recession": no need to despair - it's a good time to regroup for the next boom (from the "New Modesty" to a "Modesty Blaze," perhaps?).
- U.S. architects turn the building bust into an opportunity to nurture inner growth.
- An amusing call for starchitects "to look out the window of their ivory tower" (and let their students have some fun!).
- Edgar Gonzalez visits Niemeyer's French Communist Party HQ in Paris: "It's not trying to be witty or clever" (great pix!).
- Anchors away! Venturi's Lieb House sets sail from NJ to Long Island this week - and NYC's Storefront for Art and Architecture is ready (definitely worth getting up early on Friday!).
- Call for entries: "rouse[D]" international open ideas competition to re-invent Detroit.
- Winners all: 2009 AIA/ALA Library Building Awards; and Greener Gadgets Design Competition Winners (some very cool gadgets!).

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GRAFT Architects: Dental Clinic KU64 and Kinderdentist, Berlin, Germany

What price urban blight? Local landscapers recently convened...to discuss...how to use landscaping within an urban environment...The term "green city" is mainly a marketing ploy...The result of this obliviousness is the ugliness of our cities, usually the result of neglect by the local authorities. - Ha'aretz (Israel)

Urban Green: One of the less heralded but lasting monuments of the Beijing Olympics is the Olympic Forest Park..."Now birds migrate to our new park...this place is the real Bird's Nest ... not the National Stadium"...public parks like this one are...evidence of social transformation. -- Hu Jie; Sasaki Associates [images]- Bangkok Post

Unbuilt Transbay station could soon be obsolete: San Francisco's planned high-speed rail station in the new Transbay Terminal would be obsolete within two decades, state transportation officials warn, forcing them to rethink the design. -- Pelli Clarke Pelli [image]- San Francisco Chronicle

Putting Parking into Reverse: UCLA Planning Professor Donald Shoup's Theories Influence Cities to Reconsider Pervasive Free Parking: ...is a land use that is as ubiquitous as it is vapid and..."disfigures the landscape, distorts urban form, damages the environment, and wastes money that could be spent more productively elsewhere." By Josh Stephens- InTransition Magazine

AIRPod: tiny air-powered commuter costs half a Euro per 100km: ...the cheap, environmentally-neutral compressed air engine lends itself to interesting urban and industrial transport concepts... [images]- Gizmag (Australia)

The New Green Monster: Cook + Fox-designed megaproject could mend a tear in Boston's urban fabric...selected from a short-list of five notable firms...seeking to create not only an iconic but also a green landmark for the city. -- SOM; Gensler; Foster + Partners; Office for Metropolitan Architecture/OMA [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

From oil rig to luxury eco-resort: ...thousands of decommissioned platforms in the Gulf of Mexico could in future be given a new lease of life...Rig resorts could become America's answer to destinations like Dubai (but, we hope, without as much bling). -- Morris Architects [images]- Gizmag (Australia)

New design unveiled for Brussels's Euroquarter: Area to get fewer, larger buildings with space for homes, shops and restaurants...opens up the possibility of a new generation of skyscrapers... -- Christian de Portzamparc; Wirtz International; Coteba Belgium; Ove Arup [image]- European Voice

Library shines brightly in Mattapan: New Boston Public Library branch designed to meet civic needs: Every aspect of the architecture is the result of human and social issues that have been recognized and solved...a building in which architecture is never unaware of human needs. By Robert Campbell -- William Rawn Associates [image]- Boston Globe

The architecture of recession: The economic crisis has put paid to the trophy building projects of the last 20 years, but architects need not despair – the wheel will turn...Recessions are a time for architects to rethink their game...regroup for the next boom...expect a reaction to the New Modesty. Expect, at the very least, a Modesty Blaze... By Jonathan Glancey-Guardian (UK)

Architects settle for inner growth: Building bust leaves time for learning, planning for future...Firms that use their new-found down time to develop skills should emerge stronger when the economy picks up... -- OWP/P; Rena Klein; Harley Ellis Devereaux; Deborah Pierce; Massey Hoffman- Chicago Tribune

Slope Day and Starchitects: Architects need to look out the window of their ivory tower: ...the constant withdrawal behind Rand doors and into the jargon of academia is damaging to a profession which relies on outside comprehension...Just allow me the choice to drink a beer, get my flip-flopped feet stepped on...I pay for it just like I pay for my theory classes, after all. - Cornell Daily Sun

Edgar Gonzalez visits Oscar Niemeyer's French Communist Party HQ in Paris: "...it's old school. It's not trying to be witty or clever. It doesn't pay homage to other buildings. It has interesting structural solutions, but they are not the main attraction. It's

an exercise in space — it's sculptural, but beyond a simplistic object." [\[images\]](#)- BD/Building Design (UK)

LIEBing for New Shores: Storefront for Art and Architecture is hosting an exhibition...March 13th, there will be a gathering on Pier 17 between 7 am and 9 am to watch the house cruise down the river -- Robert Venturi; Denise Scott Brown; Frederic Schwartz [\[image, video, links\]](#)- The Architect's Newspaper

Call for entries: "rouse[D]" international open ideas competition and exhibition to focus on re-inventing the city of Detroit through the use of digital computation methodologies; cash prizes; deadline: July 31 - RouseDetroit

2009 AIA/ALA Library Building Awards honor eight separate projects -- richard+bauer; Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Perkins Eastman; Pei Partnership; 1100 Architect; Marlon Blackwell; Pelli Clarke Pelli; Gould Evans/Wendell Burnette- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Greener Gadgets Design Competition Winners! [\[images, links\]](#)- Core77

WORDS THAT BUILD: Taking Advantage of Interruptions in Architectural Communication: Tip #12: Cogent communicators exploit opportunities offered by interruptions. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

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